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KEATS TO FANNY BRAWNE

Fanny! If in your arms my soul could slip—
Arms that my love first fancied—not the grave!
Cities of Hate and Madness round me rave;
And Love with anguished finger at the lip
Fares shelterless! These have my fellowship—
Memory and Loneliness! What's left? To brave
Death! But before it Tragedy: not to crave
You changed or truly seen! The hemlock drip
Of rains upon half-lived or ruined springs,
Where you dance, smiling, numbs me now, and soothes
Hopes that once sought a beauty gone before.
Losses have stripped me! But the vanishings
Of winter winds leave me to starry truths—
Who once desired you, but desire no more!

Edgar Lee Masters